

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0026] of the specification as follows:

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of an optical port circuit. As shown in Figure 2, a power supply 204 provides DC voltage an optical diode 201, a resistor 202, a transistor 203, and meter circuits 205. Optical diode 201, resistor 202, transistor 203, and meter circuits 205 are connected in parallel with the output of power supply 204. As a result, the signals provided by optical diode 201 are proportional to the power consumed by the meter. For example, optical diode 201 may requires 10 milliamps (mA) of current from power supply 204 to communicate with equipment external to the meter. The required 10 mA is delivered by power supply 204 in addition to the other electronic components (~~new~~not shown in Figure 2) that power supply 204 provides power.

Please amend paragraph [0027] of the specification as follows:

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of an optical port circuit, according to the invention. As shown in Figure 3, an optical diode 301 is connected in series with a power supply 307. As a result, the DC current provided by power supply 301 may be provided to the remainder of metering circuits 306 via optical diode 301 with little or no additional consumption of current by optical diode 301. This is due to the fact that power supply 307 is burdened to provide additional voltage to accommodate the voltage drop across series-connected optical diode 301, rather than rather having to provide additional DC current required by a parallel-connected optical diode current at full DC voltage.